

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 12, 2004

Dara Corrigan  
Acting Principal Deputy Inspector General  
HHS Office of the Inspector General  
330 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Corrigan:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about reports that Chief CMS Actuary Richard S. Foster was instructed by HHS authorities to withhold essential information from lawmakers about the cost of the new Medicare law.

Throughout the debate on the Medicare bill, the legislation's cost was a central issue for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. The withholding of cost information may have impeded lawmakers' ability to engage in fair debate on the bill.

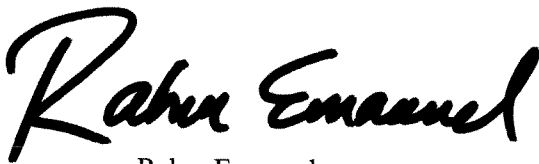
We are particularly concerned in light of the recent discovery that an HHS report on racial health disparities was altered to make the findings sound more positive. Though we were relieved that these misrepresentations were corrected, the incident, coupled with yesterday's revelations, calls into question whether HHS authorities are allowing political interference to drive professional actions.

It would be a tremendous disservice to the American people if the legitimacy of HHS could be disputed, and if we could not trust that professional documents produced by professional staff at the Department were free from undue political influence.

We encourage you to launch an investigation to determine whether Mr. Foster indeed faced inappropriate pressure to withhold information from lawmakers, and if so, to take action to ensure that any such incidents do not take place in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress



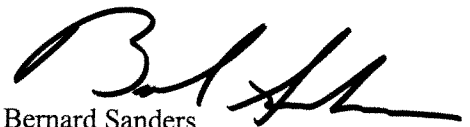
Sherrod Brown  
Senior Democrat  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
Health Subcommittee



Pete Stark  
Senior Democrat  
Ways and Means Committee  
Health Subcommittee



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders  
Member of Congress